

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-12, and 14-21 are pending. Claims 3 and 13 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, and 14-20 are amended, and claim 21 is added. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicants' claim for foreign priority.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 22, 2003.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification is amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter is entered.

Amendments to the Drawings

FIG. 5 is revised to correct minor informalities.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 8, 11-15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shaffer (U.S. 4,381,738);

claims 1-5, 8, 11-15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ma (U.S. 5,915,354); and

claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 16, 17, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaffer. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to an intake system for an internal combustion engine, including

a groove formed in an inner wall surface of said passage for receiving said partition wall, said groove being disposed at a predetermined disposition relative to said passage separating partition wall,

there being a space between an edge of the partition wall and an edge of the passage separating partition wall.

Support for a groove 1b formed in an inner wall surface of said passage for receiving said partition wall P, said groove 1b being disposed at a predetermined disposition relative to said passage separating partition wall 1f, there being a space between an edge of the partition

wall P and an edge of the passage separating partition wall 1f, can be seen, for example in FIG. 1.

As a result of this novel configuration, the partition wall can be attached easily.

By contrast, as can be seen in Shaffer FIG. 3, 6, and 7, this document merely discloses partition walls 46 coming in contact with the edge of head portion 28. Thus there is no space between the partition wall 46 and head portion 28. Moreover, Shaffer FIG. 8 and column 4, lines 61-65 merely disclose partition wall 50 extending completely to head portion 28.

With respect to the Ma (See FIGS. 1-4), this document is silent about a groove formed in an inner wall surface of said passage for receiving said partition wall, said groove being disposed at a predetermined disposition relative to said passage separating partition wall, there being a space between an edge of the partition wall and an edge of the passage separating partition wall, as presently claimed.

Thus, at least for the reasons described above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Shaffer and Ma.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 11

In addition, independent claim 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to an intake system for an internal combustion engine, including grooves

formed in an inner wall surface of said intake passage for receiving said flat partition wall, said grooves being disposed at a predetermined disposition relative to and being separated from said intake passage separating partition wall.

By contrast, as can be seen in Shaffer FIG. 3, 6, 7, and 10, this document merely discloses partition walls 40, 41, 53, 54, 55, 56, which are curved, and slots 42-47 which extend to the head portion 28.

With respect to the Ma document, FIGS. 2 and 3 and the Abstract merely disclose a twisted partition wall.

Thus, at least for the reasons explained above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Shaffer and Ma.

Therefore, independent claim 11 is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 2, 12, and 14-20 are amended to place them in better form, and dependent claim 21 is added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is now moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

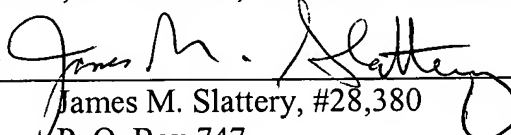
Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachment: One Sheet Revised Formal Drawing (FIG. 5)

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Art Unit: 3747
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Amendments to the Drawings

One sheet of Revised Formal Drawing (FIG. 5) is attached.